

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-22 are rejected.

Claims 1-9, 13-19, and 20-22 have been amended.

Claims 23-25 have been added.

Formal Matters

The specification and claims 3-6 have been amended in response to the objections for informalities.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 5, 9, 13 and 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Choquier, et al., U.S. Patent 5,951,694. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Choquier, et al., do not teach a computer network comprising:

a client device configured to access a first service of the plurality of services by accessing a service point map to obtain the corresponding service address for the first service, wherein the service point map comprises a listing of at least one service of the plurality of services available on the network and the corresponding service address for each service of the at least one service

as required by amended claim 1. The Office Action indicates that the “at least one client device...” claimed corresponds to item 102 of Choquier, et al., and the “service point map...” of claim 1 corresponds to item 136. Office Action dated April 2, 2004, pages 3-4, paragraph 8. Applicants respectfully submit that the client device of Choquier, et al., does not access the service point map listing of services or the corresponding service addresses, and thus does not teach the above element of claim 1.

A client end-user is defined as “a client microcomputer 102 under control of an end user.” (Choquier, et al., column 7 lines 65-66.) The Office Action, page 4, paragraph 8, points out the following section describing the service point map:

Each time the user opens a service, the gateway 126 that is handling the logon session accesses a locally-stored service map 136 to select a server 120 that is allocated to the particular service, and then establishes a service instance channel with the selected server 120....

Client microcomputer 102 of Choquier, et al., does not access service map 136, and gateway 126 does not provide service map 136 to client microcomputer 102. Service map 136 is stored locally on gateway 126 and is not accessible to client microcomputer 102, which resides across a wide-area network (*see* Choquier, et al., WAN 106 of Fig. 1) from gateway 126. Gateway 126 accesses and updates the locally-stored service map 136, but client microcomputer 102 does not. Furthermore, client microcomputer 102 of Choquier, et al., does not access corresponding address information for each service, but instead communicates through gateway 126. Gateway 126 establishes a service instance channel with the selected server 120 on behalf of client microcomputer 102, and thus client microcomputer 102 does not have knowledge of the address information for each service. Gateway 126 opens a channel, performs protocol translation, and routes messages (*see* Choquier, et al., col. 8, lines 40-47) via a direct connection between client microcomputer 102 and an application server providing a given service that is located by gateway 126.

Furthermore, with reference to claim 2, the Office Action, page 4, paragraph 9, states that "each client device collects a service point map (item 136) from the service point map manager device when the client connects to the network" (citing Choquier, et al., col. 10, lines 55-61). As noted above, the client devices of Choquier, et al., do not access or collect service point maps, and thus cannot be said to infringe this claim.

Because Choquier, et al., do not teach all elements of independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-12 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

With reference to independent claim 13, amended claim 13 recites the following elements:

generating a table listing of at least one service connected to the network and corresponding location information for each service of the at least one service, wherein a first service of the at least one service is selected from the plurality of services using a first partitioning scheme; and

providing the table listing to a client computer system configured to access a second service of the at least one service using the table listing to obtain the corresponding location information for the second service.

The Office Action cites the following portions of Choquier, et al., with reference to the independent claim 13:

The service map dispatcher 144 builds the service map 136 from all of the local maps 140 it receives, and then broadcasts the service map 136 to all of the Gateways 136 over the LAN 122. In other embodiments, the servers 120 broadcast their respective local maps 140 to the Gateways 126, and each Gateway builds the service map 136 from the local maps it receives. (Choquier, et al., col. 10, lines 55-61).

Choquier, et al., does not teach selecting services for inclusion in the service point map in accordance with a partitioning scheme, nor providing the table listing to a client computer system configured to access a second service using the table listing. Accordingly, Choquier, et al., does not teach all of the elements of independent claim 13, and independent claim 13 and its dependent claims 14-19 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

With reference to independent claim 20, the Office Action states that claims 20-22 are rejected for the same reason as claims 1-3 and 13. Applicants respectfully submit that, as with independent claims 1 and 13, Choquier, et al., do not teach “transferring a dynamic service point map to the client process,” as required by independent claim 20. Accordingly, independent claim 20 and its dependent claims 21 and 22 are allowable for at least this reason.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier, et al., U.S. Patent 5,951,694. As explained above, because Choquier, et al., do not teach all elements of independent claim 1, from which claim 4 depends, claim 4 is allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier, et al., U.S. Patent 5,951,694, in view of Fujimoto, JP02001117932A. As explained above, because Choquier, et al., do not teach all elements of independent claim 1, from which claim 6 depends, or independent claim 13, from which claim 14 depends, claims 6 and 14 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

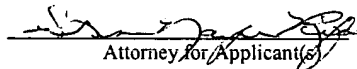
Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier, et al., U.S. Patent 5,951,694, in view of Al-Ghosein, et al., U.S. Patent 6,473,791. As explained above, because Choquier, et al., do not teach all elements of independent claim 1, from which claims 7 and 8 depend, claims 7 and 8 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier, et al., U.S. Patent 5,951,694, in view of Bartle, et al., U.S. Patent 6,188,888. As explained above, because Choquier, et al., do not teach all elements of independent claim 1, from which claims 11 and 12 depend, claims 11 and 12 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

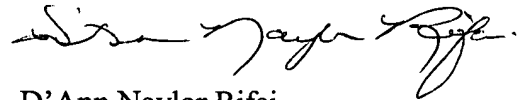
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5086.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Box AF, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 2, 2003.

 9/2/03
Attorney for Applicant(s) Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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